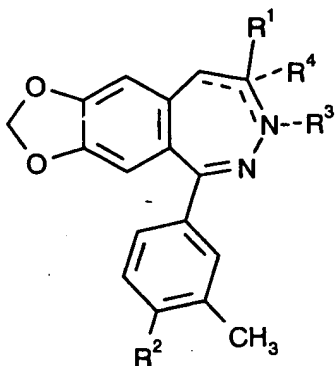


CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 through 27 canceled.

Claim 28 (Previously presented) A compound of the
Formula (I)



wherein

R^1 is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, $-\text{CH}=\text{NOH}$, $-\text{CH}=\text{NNHCONH}_2$, or $-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^5\text{R}^6$, wherein

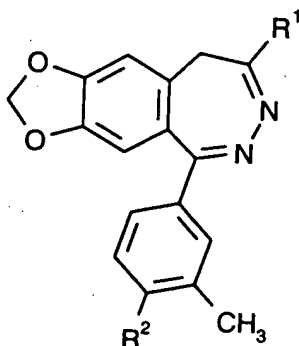
R^5 and R^6 independently from each other are hydrogen or lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R^2 is nitro or amino;

R^3 is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or $-\text{CONR}^7\text{R}^8$ wherein

14 R⁷ and R⁸ independently from each other are hydrogen,
15 lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with
16 the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-
17 membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally
18 containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen
19 atoms;
20 R⁴ is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and
21 the dotted lines have the following meanings:
22 if R³ and R⁴ are not present, the bond between positions C⁸ and C⁹ is
23 a single bond, and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a double
24 bond;
25 if R³ and R⁴ are present, the bonds between positions C⁸ and C⁹ and
26 between positions C⁸ and N⁷ are single bonds; and
27 if R³ is present and R⁴ is missing, the bond between positions C⁸
28 and C⁹ is a double bond and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a
29 single bond;
30 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 29 (Previously presented) A compound of the
2 Formula (IA)



IA

4 wherein

5 R¹ is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, -CH=NNHCONH₂, or -CO-
6 NR⁵R⁶, wherein

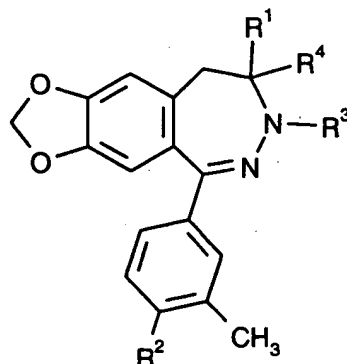
7 R⁵ and R⁶ independently from each other are hydrogen or
8 lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are
9 attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated
10 heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further
11 nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms; and

12 R² is nitro or amino;

13 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 30 (Previously presented) A compound of the

2 Formula (IB)



IB

4 wherein

5 R¹ is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, -CH=NNHCONH₂, or -CO-
6 NR⁵R⁶, wherein

7 R⁵ and R⁶ independently from each other are hydrogen or
8 lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are
9 attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated
10 heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further
11 nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

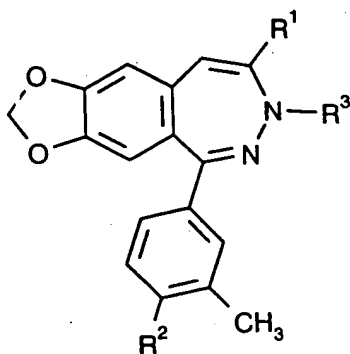
12 R² is nitro or amino;

13 R³ is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or -CONR⁷R⁸ wherein

14 R⁷ and R⁸ independently from each other are hydrogen,
15 lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with
16 the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-
17 membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally

18 containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen
19 atoms; and
20 R⁴ is hydrogen or lower alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable
21 salt thereof.

1 Claim 31 (Previously presented) A compound of the
2 Formula (IC)



IC

4 wherein
5 R¹ is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, -CH=NNHCONH₂ or -CO-
6 NR⁵R⁶, wherein
7 R⁵ and R⁶ independently from each other are hydrogen or
8 lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are
9 attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated
10 heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further
11 nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;
12 R² is nitro or amino; and
13 R³ is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or -CONR⁷R⁸ wherein

14 R⁷ and R⁸ independently from each other are hydrogen,
15 lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with
16 the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-
17 membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally
18 containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen
19 atoms; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 32 (Previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IA) defined in claim 29 wherein R² is amino; or a
3 pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 33 (Previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IB) defined in claim 30 wherein R² is amino; or a
3 pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 34 (Previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IC) defined in claim 31 wherein R² is amino; or a
3 pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 35 (Previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IB) defined in claim 30 wherein R¹ is methyl or cyano; R²
3 is amino; R³ is lower alkanoyl or -CONR⁷R⁸; R⁷ is hydrogen; R⁸ is
4 lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, or lower cycloalkyl; and R⁴ is hydrogen
5 or methyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 36 and 37 (Canceled)

1 Claim 38 (Previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IC) defined in claim 31 wherein R¹ is methyl; R² is amino;
3 R³ is lower alkanoyl or -CONR⁷R⁸; R⁷ is hydrogen; and R⁸ is lower
4 alkyl, lower alkoxy, or lower cycloalkyl; or a pharmaceutically
5 acceptable salt thereof.

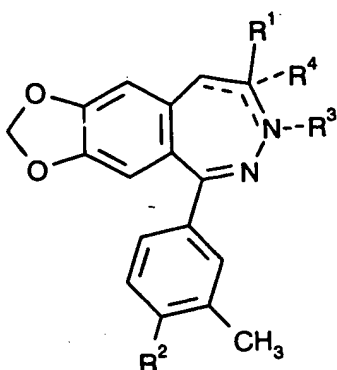
 Claim 39 (Canceled)

1 Claim 40 (Previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IA) defined in claim 29 wherein R¹ is formyl, carboxy,
3 cyano, -CH=NOH, -CH=NNHCONH₂ or -CO-NR⁵R⁶, or a pharmaceutically
4 acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 41 (Previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IA) defined in claim 40 which is 5-(4-amino-3-methyl-
3 phenyl)-8-(semicarbazono-methyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-
4 H][2,3}benzodiazepine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt
5 thereof.

Claims 42 through 48 (Canceled)

1 Claim 49 (currently amended) A pharmaceutical
2 composition for treating epilepsy, stroke, Parkinson's disease,
3 multiple sclerosis or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis which comprises
4 a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the Formula (I)



5
6 wherein

7 R¹ is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, -CH=NNHCONH₂, or -CO-
8 NR⁵R⁶, wherein

9 R⁵ and R⁶ independently from each other are hydrogen or
10 lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are
11 attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated
12 heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further
13 nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

14 R² is nitro or amino;

15 R³ is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or -CONR⁷R⁸ wherein

16 R⁷ and R⁸ independently from each other are hydrogen,
17 lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with

18 the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-
19 membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally
20 containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen
21 atoms;
22 R⁴ is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and
23 the dotted lines have the following meanings:
24 if R³ and R⁴ are not present, the bond between positions C⁸ and C⁹ is
25 a single bond, and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a double
26 bond;
27 if R³ and R⁴ are present, the bonds between positions C⁸ and C⁹ and
28 between positions C⁸ and N⁷ are single bonds; and
29 if R³ is present and R⁴ is missing, the bond between positions C⁸
30 and C⁹ is a double bond and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a
31 single bond;
32 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a
33 pharmaceutically acceptable inert carrier.

1 Claim 50 (currently amended) A method of treating a
2 mammalian subject in need of treatment for epilepsy, stroke,
3 Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis or amyotropic lateral
4 sclerosis which comprises the step of administering to said
5 mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound
6 of the Formula (I) as defined in claim 28.

Claims 51 through 54 (canceled)

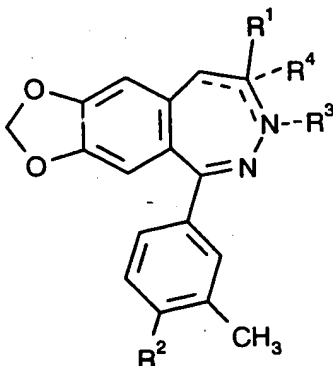
1 Claim 55 (previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IB) defined in claim 35 which is 7-acetyl-
3 5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-7, 8-dihydro-8-methyl-9H-1,3-
4 dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine; or a pharmaceutically acceptable
5 salt thereof.

1 Claim 56 (previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IB) defined in claim 35 which is selected from the group
3 consisting of:
4 5-(3-methyl-4-amino-phenyl)-7-propionyl-7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-9H-
5 1, 3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;
6 5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-7-(N-cyclopropyl-carbamoyl)-7,8-dihydro
7 -8-methyl-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;
8 5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-7-(N-methoxy-carbamoyl)-7,8-
9 dihydro-8-methyl-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;
10 5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-7-(N-methyl-carbamoyl)-7,8-dihydro-8-
11 methyl-9H-1, 3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;
12 5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-7-acetyl-8-cyano-7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-9
13 H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine; and
14 5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-8-cyano-7-propionyl-7,8-dihydro-8-
15 methyl-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;
16 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 57 (previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IC) defined in claim 38 selected from the group consisting
3 of:

7-acetyl-5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-8-methyl-7H-
1, 3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]-benzodiazepine;
7-(N-methyl-carbamoyl)-5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-
8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]-benzodiazepine; and
7-(N-cyclopropyl-carbamoyl)-5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-
8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine; or a
pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 58 (previously presented) A process for the
preparation of a compound of the Formula (I)



I

wherein

R^1 is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, $-\text{CH}=\text{NOH}$, $-\text{CH}=\text{NNHCONH}_2$, or $-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^5\text{R}^6$, wherein

R^5 and R^6 independently from each other are hydrogen or lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated

heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R² is nitro or amino;

R³ is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or -CONR⁷R⁸ wherein

R⁷ and R⁸ independently from each other are hydrogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R⁴ is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and

the dotted lines have the following meanings:

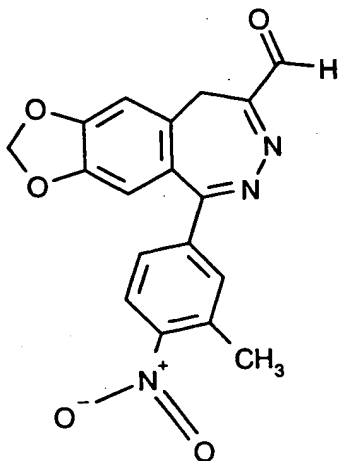
if R³ and R⁴ are not present, the bond between positions C⁸ and C⁹ is a single bond, and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a double bond;

if R³ and R⁴ are present, the bonds between positions C⁸ and C⁹ and between positions C⁸ and N⁷ are single bonds; and

if R³ is present and R⁴ is missing, the bond between positions C⁸ and C⁹ is a double bond and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a single bond;

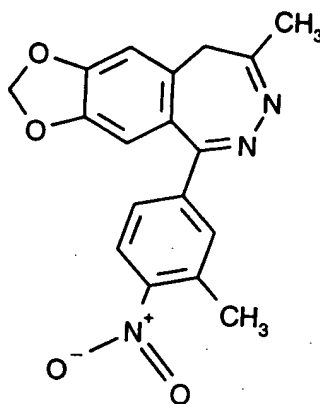
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; which comprises:

- 31 a) for the preparation of
32 8-formyl-5-(3-methyl-4-nitro-phenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h]-
33 [2,3]benzodiazepine of the Formula (III)



III

- 35 oxidizing
36 8-methyl-5-(4-nitro-3-methyl-phenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benz
37 odiazepine of the Formula (II)



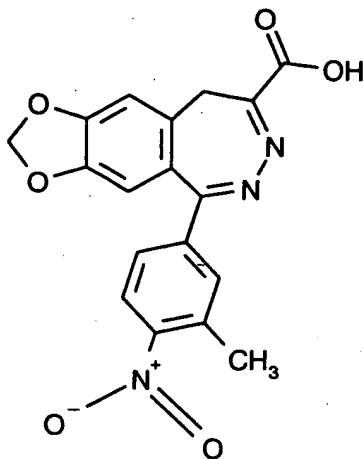
II

39 or

b) for the preparation of

5-(3-methyl-4-nitro-phenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo-

[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine-8-carboxylic acid of the Formula (IV)



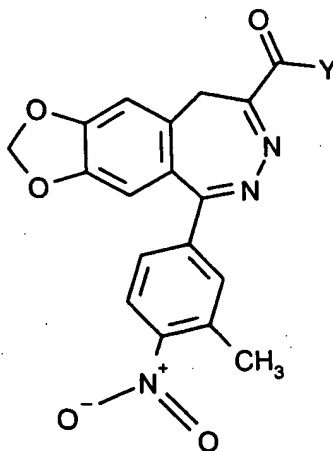
IV

oxidizing the

8-formyl-5-(3-methyl-4-nitro-phenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;

or

c) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (V)



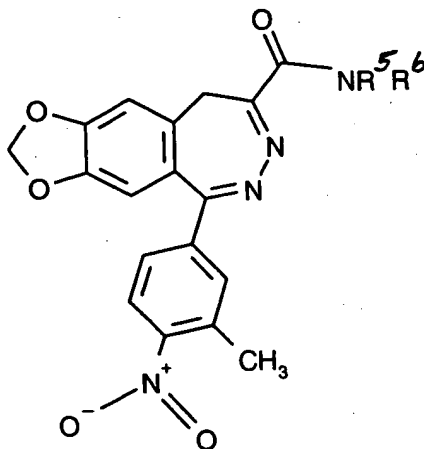
V

wherein Y is a leaving group, reacting the compound of the Formula IV with a compound capable of introducing group Y;

or

d) for the preparation of the compound of the Formula

(VI)

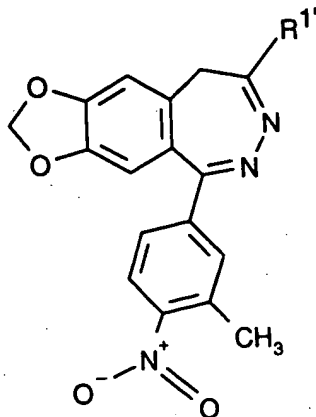


VI

wherein R⁵ and R⁶ are as defined above, reacting the carboxylic acid of the Formula (IV) or a reactive derivative thereof of the Formula (V) with an amine of the Formula HNR⁵R⁶;

or

e) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (VII)

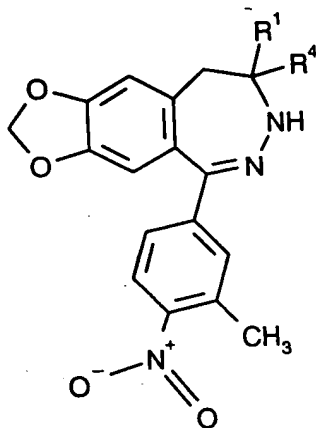


VII

wherein R^1 is cyano, $-\text{CH}=\text{NOH}$ or $-\text{CH}=\text{NNHCONH}_2$, converting in the compound of the Formula (III) the formyl group into an R^1 group; or

f) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula

(VIII)

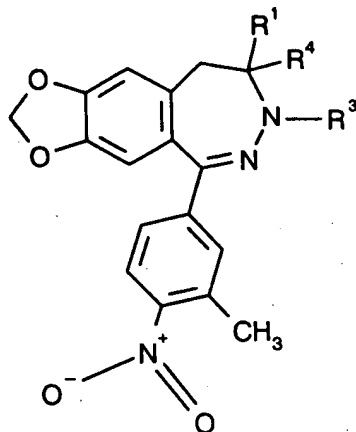


VIII

saturating the $\text{C}^8\text{-N}^7$ double bond of the compound of the Formula (VII) by addition or reduction;

or

g) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (IX)

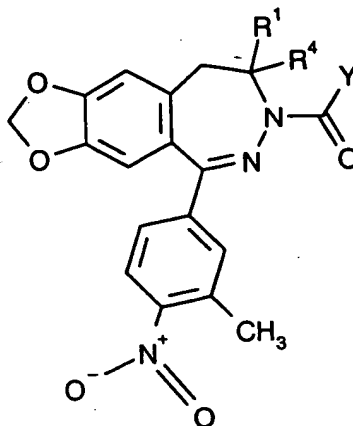


IX

wherein R^3 is lower alkanoyl), reacting a compound of the Formula (VIII) with a compound capable of introducing a lower alkanoyl group;

or

h) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (X)

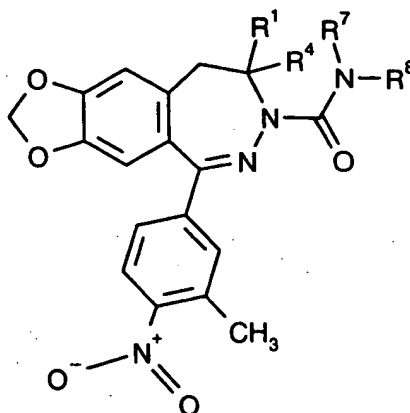


X

wherein Y is a leaving group and R^1 and R^4 are as stated above, reacting a compound of the Formula (VIII) with a compound capable of introducing the $-COY$ group;

or

i) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (XI)

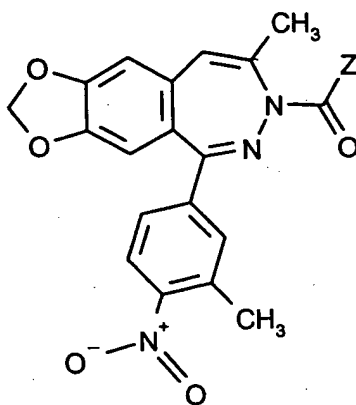


XI

wherein R^1 , R^4 , R^7 and R^8 are as stated above, reacting a compound of the Formula (X) or the corresponding free carboxylic acid thereof with an amine of the Formula HNR^7R^8 ;

or

j) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (XII)



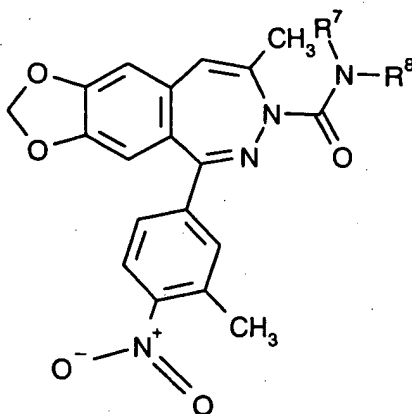
XII

wherein Z is a leaving group, reacting the compound of the Formula (II) with a compound capable of introducing the $-COZ$ group;

or

k) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula

(XIII)



XIII

97 wherein R^7 and R^8 are as stated above, reacting a compound of the
98 Formula (XII) with an amine of the Formula HNR^7R^8 ;
99 or

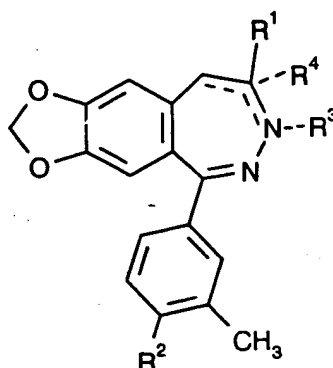
100 1) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (I),
101 wherein R^2 is amino, reducing the corresponding compound of the
102 Formula (I), wherein R^2 is nitro; and, if desired, converting a
103 compound of the Formula (I) into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid
104 addition salt thereof or setting free a compound of the Formula (I)
105 from a salt.

1 Claim 59 (previously presented) Process according to
2 process 1) defined in Claim 58 which comprises reducing as the
3 compound of the Formula (I), a compound of the Formulae (II),
4 (VII), (IX), (XI), (XII) or (XIII).

1 Claim 60 (previously presented) Process according to
2 Claim 59 which comprises carrying out the reduction by using
3 stannous (II) chloride, sodium dithionite or by means of catalytic
4 hydrogenation.

1 Claim 61 (previously presented) Process according to
2 Claim 60 in which the reduction is carried out by catalytic
3 hydrogenation and which comprises using a Raney-nickel, palladium
4 or platinum catalyst, and a hydrogen source selected from the group
5 consisting of hydrogen, hydrazine, hydrazine hydrate, formic acid,
6 trialkyl ammonium formate and an alkali formate.

1 Claim 62 (previously presented) A process for preparing
2 a compound of the Formula (I)



4 wherein

5 R^1 is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, $-\text{CH}=\text{NOH}$, $-\text{CH}=\text{NNHCONH}_2$, or $-\text{CO}-$
6 NR^5R^6 , wherein

7 R^5 and R^6 independently from each other are hydrogen or
8 lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are
9 attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated
10 heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further
11 nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

12 R^2 is amino;

13 R^3 is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or $-\text{CONR}^7\text{R}^8$ wherein

14 R^7 and R^8 independently from each other are hydrogen,
15 lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with
16 the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-
17 membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally

containing one or more further nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R⁴ is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and

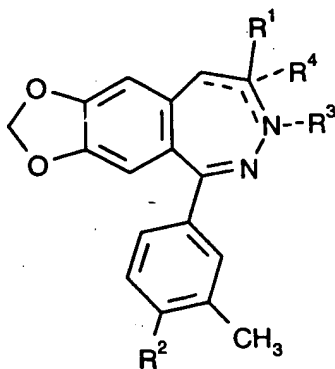
the dotted lines have the following meanings:

if R³ and R⁴ are not present, the bond between positions C⁸ and C⁹ is a single bond, and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a double bond;

if R³ and R⁴ are present, the bonds between positions C⁸ and C⁹ and between positions C⁸ and N⁷ are single bonds; and

if R³ is present and R⁴ is missing, the bond between positions C⁸ and C⁹ is a double bond and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a single bond;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; which comprises the step of reducing a compound of the Formula (I)



I

33 wherein

34 R^2 is nitro and R^1 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and the dotted lines are as
35 defined above

36 with stannous (II) chloride, sodium dithionite or by catalytic
37 hydrogenation.